

JOINT SEMINAR

BIOECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES: FROM NICHE TO NORM 4S – SUSTAINABILITY, SPEED, SCALE AND SKILLS



MANAGING STATE
FORESTS RESPONSIBLY

29 June 2023

Networking drink

18.00 - 20.00

**European Forestry House,
Brussels**

30 June 2023

Seminar

9.30 - 15.30

**Copa Cogeca premises,
Brussels**

EVENT OVERVIEW

Ten years after the publication of the first EU Bioeconomy strategy, we consider it important to bring this topic back to the priority list at EU and national level. This strategy and its update from 2018 has helped some Member States to prepare national strategies and frameworks to develop bioeconomy at local and regional level and to create new opportunities for rural businesses. The EU Bioeconomy strategy progress report published in June 2022 acknowledged the key role of bioeconomy to achieve the key EU objectives mainly in tackling climate change and substituting fossil-based materials and fuels, and at the same time contributing to biodiversity and viable rural areas.

After the European Commission conference on bioeconomy in October 2022, the Swedish Presidency conference in February 2023 and the adoption of the Council conclusions in April 2023, we need to continue this debate and to have an open exchange with all relevant institutions and stakeholders on the next steps on how to go with bioeconomy from niche to norm and have it as a priority for primary producers for coming years.

Strengthening of the European circular bioeconomy is one of the most concrete options for reducing our reliance on imported fossil materials, products and fuels whilst strengthening the rural economic fabric and enhancing environmental sustainability. Farmers, forest owners and managers and agriculture and forest cooperatives innovated and invested a lot to enhance their contribution to bioeconomy and are committed to continue this is the future. However, more needs to be done at EU and national level to increase the speed and scale up the opportunities provided by bioeconomy and to provide the right skills to the current and future generation to ensure sustainable business models.

The conclusions of this seminar will serve as recommendations from European farmers, forest owners and managers and agriculture and forest cooperatives to the European institutions and Member States on why and how to make the bioeconomy a priority for the next period.

The discussion will focus on the following questions:

1- What are the key messages from the European Council conclusions on bioeconomy and the way forward?

2- Where we are and what next– EU, national, local level – with a focus on skills and knowledge exchange

3- Where we are and what next– EU, national, local level – with a focus on scale and speed

4- Where we are and what next– EU, national, local level – with a focus on a sustainable use on natural resources

Moderator: TBD

Draft AGENDA

- 09:30 – 10:00** Registration
- 10:00 – 10:05** Welcome address by Copa Cogeca
- 10:05 – 10:20** **Setting the scene – Why bioeconomy is important and why it should be a priority for EU?**
- Dr. **Lorie Hamelin**, Junior Chair in Bioeconomy, INRAE
- 10:20– 11:00** **Panel discussion I :**
What are the key messages from the Council conclusions on bioeconomy and the way forward?
- **Kristina Nordéus**, Agricultural Counsellor, SCA spokesperson, Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU;
 - **Mihail Dumitru**, Deputy-Director General, European Commission, DG for Agriculture and Rural Development;
 - **MEP** (tbd);
 - **Copa-Cogeca** (tbd);
 - **Luc Bouvarel**, forest owner, Fransylva, CEPF Board member.
- 11:00 –11:10** Q&A
- 11:10 – 11:40** Coffee break
- 11:40 –12:10** **Panel discussion II :**
Where we are and what next– EU, national, local level – with a focus on skills and knowledge exchange
- **Farmers representative** (tbd);
 - **CAP network**(tbd);
 - **Damiano Cilio**, Coordinator of the Presidency of the European Bioeconomy University Alliance;
 - **Thomas Haußmann**, Head of Liaison Unit, Forest Europe.
- 12:10- 12:20** Q&A
- 12:20 – 13:00** **Panel discussion III :**
Where we are and what next– EU, national, local level – with a focus on scale and speed
- **Peter Wehrheim**, Head of Unit Bioeconomy and Food System, DG for Research and Innovation European Commission;
 - **Barna Kovacs**, Secretary-General at BIOEAST Initiative;

- **Marco Rupp**, Public affairs and Sustainability, Bio-based Industries Consortium;
- **Juan Sagarna**, Coordinator Cooperativas Agroalimentarias COOPID PROJECT;
- **Gary Healy**, Coillte Ireland.

13:00 – 13:10

Q&A

13:10 – 14:10

Lunch break (Copa Cogeca premises)

14:10 – 14:50

**Panel discussion IV :
Where we are and what next– EU, national, local level - sustainable use
of natural resources**

- **Silvija Aile**, Deputy Head of Land Use and Management Unit, DG Environment, European Commission;
- **Sven Walter**, Team Leader of the “Bioeconomy” work, FAO;
- **EEB** (tbd);
- **CEJA** (tbd);
- **Johan Elvnert** – Managing Director of Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform.

14:50 – 15:00

Q&A

15:00 – 15:10

Concluding remarks